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Senator Will Try to Block Trump from Changing Offshore Drilling Rules; Environmental Justice Grabs a Megaphone in the Climate Movement

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"In nature, nothing exists alone... But man is a part of nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself." ~ Rachel Carson

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## Democratic Senator Will Try to Block Trump from Changing Offshore Drilling Rules

Florida Sen. [Bill Nelson](#) (D) said on the Senate floor Wednesday that he will use the CRA, which Republicans have used to dismantle many Obama-era regulations under the Trump presidency, to block the administrations's proposed rule changes. The law allows for an expedited review to overturn a regulation by resolution.



“The BP spill devastated my state's economy and 11 people lost their lives,” Nelson said in remarks reported by the Washington Examiner. “That's why I plan to subject this misguided rule to the Congressional Review Act.” Read more from [The Hill](#).

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## North Carolina Hopes to Lure ‘EV Tourists’ with Rural Charging Stations



The push by the cooperatives, which cover nearly half the state's land mass, comes as [North Carolina decides](#) whether to spend \$13.8 million on charging infrastructure from a [settlement](#) with Volkswagen for producing illegally-polluting vehicles.



"If each of these electric cooperatives had charging stations in their area," said Kristie Aldridge, who works with the statewide association of co-ops, "then we could get people moving across the state and boost our state's tourism." Read more at [South East Energy News](#).

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## **Environmental Justice Grabs a Megaphone in the Climate Movement**

"We are at a point where we have crossed the threshold beyond which we can not return to a period where environmental justice is not a part of the conversation," Patrice Simms, vice president of litigation for the environmental law organization Earthjustice, said.



Driven by pollution concerns, advocates from low-income and minority communities across the country are providing a powerful, new voice on environmental issues. Learn more about significance of the environmental justice movement at [Inside Climate News](#).

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## **Across the Web, and the World, Citizen Scientists Help Track Animal Migrations**



In Spain, dots along the concrete wall of a maximum-security prison suggest that the bird had found an ideal hunting perch.

Citizens are also playing a key role in academic research. Wolfgang Fiedler, the lead researcher for the

white stork study, says citizens are the scientists' eyes on the ground. "They can give us all kinds of information that the trackers do not," says Fiedler.

In the winter of 2014, for example, a French bird watcher emailed Fiedler to let him know he'd be travelling to Senegal. "Is there something I can observe for you?" he asked. Fiedler wanted to know what one of the tracked storks was doing along a river there. The volunteer altered his itinerary, and sent back pictures of roughly a thousand storks, who were hunting in the farmlands along the river. Research has shown that, increasingly, stork populations are making very different decisions about how far to migrate and what to eat, due to climate change, new landfill sites, and habitat loss. The details about the bird's diet, along with the news of additional storks, provided "very valuable information," says Fiedler. Learn more about animal migration and the impact of citizen's science at [UNDARK](#)

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## Oceans Losing Oxygen at Breathtaking Speeds

Ocean dead zones quadrupled in size since 1950, while low oxygen sites around the world increased tenfold, threatening large swaths of [marine life](#), scientists warned in a study released on Friday.



"Major extinction events in Earth's history have been associated with warm climates and oxygen-deficient oceans," the analysis published in the journal Science stated.

"Under the current trajectory that is where we would be headed. But the consequences to humans of staying on that trajectory are so dire that it is hard to imagine we would go quite that far down that path," Denise Breitburg, an author of the study and researcher at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in the U.S., told the Guardian. Read more at [EcoWatch](#)

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## Pennsylvania Suspends Mariner East 2 Pipeline Construction

Pennsylvania suspended permits for [Sunoco Pipeline](#) on Wednesday, LP's \$2.5 billion Mariner East 2 pipeline project, after finding that the company committed "egregious and willful violations" of



state laws.

The order directs Sunoco, a subsidiary of Dakota Access Pipeline builder [Energy Transfer Partners](#), to stop Mariner East II construction activities across Pennsylvania. The 306-mile pipeline project would carry 275,000 barrels a day of butane, propane and other liquid fossil fuels from Ohio and West Virginia to the Atlantic coast for export.

"Suspension of the permits described," the order states, "is necessary to correct the egregious and willful violations described herein." Learn more about the decision at [EcoWatch](#).

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## **Southern California's Water Year Has Been Nearly Bone Dry So Far, Making Some History**



said.

Since the start of the water year on Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, downtown Los Angeles has received just 0.12 of an inch of rain. That is tied with 1962-63 for the fourth-driest start to a water year since record keeping began in 1877, the weather service

"The start of the storm season has been exceptionally dry," said Ryan Kittell, forecaster with the National Weather Service in Oxnard. "It's one of the driest in history."

This year's rainfall total is 3.91 inches below the normal 4.03 inches for the



period in downtown L.A., making it just 3% of the typical rainfall. Forecasters said the driest first three months of a water year occurred during the 1903-04 season and the 1929-30 season, when just traces of rain were recorded. Read more at [Los Angeles Times](#)

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## **Habitat on the Edges: Making Room for Wildlife in an Urbanized World**

The ambition to create new protected areas still persists, of course. National parks, wildlife refuges, and other protected areas remain essential, especially for [species that do not adapt well](#) to human-dominated landscapes. The 168 signatory nations to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have acknowledged as much,



at least on paper, committing to extend protected area coverage to 17 percent of their land area by 2020. But getting there has proved difficult. Coverage by national parks and other terrestrial protected areas has remained stuck for the past few years at about 15 percent worldwide, well short of CBD commitments, much less E.O. Wilson's grander vision of "[half-Earth](#)" set aside for nature. Read more details at [Yale Environment 360](#)

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organization envisioned by Rachel Carson to carry on her work after her death. We promote Carson's ecological ethic that combines scientific concern for the environment and human health with a sense of wonder and reverence for all forms of life in order to build a sustainable, just, and peaceful future.

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